THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) No, Sir. The Government understand that an unsuccessful attempt was made to open a temporary *undial*. The contents of the *undial* were never removed and nothing was lost.

(*b*) The Devasthanam authorities have been instructed to use iron *undials* and have them fixed permanently.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Who brought this tampering to the notice of the Government, the Executive Officer?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Whoever has brought it to our notice, the Assistant Commissioner has taken steps to issue instructions to the effect that the undial should be made of iron and permanently fixed.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is there any rule regarding the opening of the undis in temples?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Rules vary from temple to temple. It is not a stereotyped rule that is being observed.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it not a fact that the trustee in question opened the *undial* on his own without the knowledge of anybody and did not even tell the authorities what amount was found in it?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no information about it.

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : Are there precautions like double-lock system in regard to these *undis* in temples? If not, will the Government insist on such things in future?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is all there; but this was a temporary *undial* and, therefore, the Assistant Commissioner has instructed that it should be of iron and permanently fixed at particular points.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will Government take legal proceedings against this trustee for recovery of the money?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Nothing has been lost and so no question of recovery arises.

Supply of pesticides

* 50 *Q.*—MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member is not in his seat. The question together with the answer will be published in the Official Report of the proceedings. 3-10 p.m.

* 50 *Q.*—SRI A. K. THANGAVEL MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to supply to the agriculturists in Chingleput and North Arcot districts, pesticides at half the rate for the protection of groundnut crops?

[31st January 1961

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Plant Protection Centres in this State will be re-allocated at the rate of one for each division of the Deputy Director of Agriculture. The facilities of staff, equipment and chemicals available with the squad proposed for the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Madras, will be available for the North Arcot and Chingleput districts also.

Stray dogs

* 51 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any tax is levied on dogs in the City of Madras and if so, what it is; and

(*a*) the arrangements, if any, made for the destruction of stray dogs?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes, Sir. A half-yearly tax of Re. 1 per dog is levied by the Corporation of Madras.

(*b*) Stray dogs and unlicensed ones are caught by skilled dog-catchers and they are removed in vans to the Lethal Chamber at Basin Bridge and are destroyed by electrocution, if they are not claimed by the owners within three days.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Are the Government aware of the fact that in the months of September and October 1960 there were number of stray dogs in the city and a number of children were bitten by them? Are the Government aware of the number of letters published in the press about these?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, my attention was not pointedly drawn to it. But I may mention that on a average about 120 to 230 dogs are caught daily and removed to the lethal chamber of the Corporation. I think at this rate the whole race of undesirable dogs would disappear. (Laughter).

SRI S. NATARAJAN : Who is responsible for the removal of stray dogs?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The Corporation of Madras.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : What is the method of destruction adopted in the municipalities?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I think they have now the lethal chamber. But in the good old days when I was a student, the method adopted was cudgelling. (Laughter.) I do not think this is now happening anywhere,